I think in these religious matters the Government's intervention should be the least.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Sir, a titanic tragedy hit the pilgrims. The Consul General of India on the spot made a report which the Government in its wisdom did not accept. The Government then sent an official delegation of four, three of whom were MPs and one was an ex-MP. I am surprised why one ex-MP of Rajya Sabha was included and none of the sitting Members of the Rajya Sabha was included. Now they are supposed to have submitted a report. That report is yet to come before us.

My question is this. There was a goodwill delegation there. According to the hon. Prime Minister, it consisted of a hundred persons. The hon. Law Minister told us yesterday that it was only thirty. What is wrong with our arithmetic? The point is here were people who were there on the spot. Have they made any report or not? If they have, what is that report? If they haven't made any report, did the Government ask them for a report? And if it didn't why did it not? If Govt, could not go along with the Consul General, they should have asked these 30 or 100 people to say what they saw and heard themselves. What was the idea of sending this small belated delegation to do some kind of a command performance?

SHRI .I.K. GUJRAL: Facts I must clarify. I never said 'a goodwill delegation of hundred people'. I was talking about the officials who are sent every year. This is different from the goodwill delegation. The goodwill delegation consists of Members or Parliament and also others. There were about thirty this year. Many MPs from the Lok Sabha could not go although they were members of the delegation. Because of developments here they wanted top stay back. I think the number was less than 30. I don't recall the exact number as to how many people did go. They have also given us their.

उपयोग न किए गए विदेशी ऋण

*466. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की क्रपा करेंगे कि:

(क) अंतर्राष्ट्रीय एजेंसियों से प्राप्त उन ऋणों का ब्यौरा क्या है जिनका उपयोग 31 मार्च, 1996 तक नहीं हो पाया है तथा कौन कौन से राज्य तथा केन्द्रीय मंत्रालय/विभाग ऋणों का उपयोग नहीं कर पाए.

(ख) इसके क्या कारण थे, और

(ग) इन ऋणों के समुचित उपयोग को सुनीक्षित करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जो रहे हैं?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Information is given in the Annexurc.

[See Appendix 180, Annexurc No. *73.]*

(b) and (c) Foreign loans are largely project tied and therefore, the utilisation of the sanctioned loan for any project is spread over the project implementation period. As a result, there would be un utilised loans at any point of time, re flecting loans in pipeline, which will be absorbed as project implementation takes place.

However, slower than expected utilisation of foreign loans is due to fund constraints, procurement and contracting delays, delays inland acquisition and other project specific issues.

Sonic of the steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilisation are, ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects, release of ACA as 100% additionally, advance release of ACA to the States, standardisation of bidding documents and streamlining of procurement procedures, disintcrmediat-ing on flow of external aid to Central PSUs, Portfolio Rationalisation and setting up of Project Management Unit in Department of Economic Affairs.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: श्रीमान, इस सवाल में कुछ स्टैप्स का मेंशन किया गया है जिससे यूटिलाइजेशन

इम्प्रूव हो सके। मैं सरकार के ध्यान में एक ही बात लाना चाहता हूं कि 11 अरब डालर का इँटरनेशनल एजेंसी का पैसा बचा हुआ है, छोटे कंट्रीज का भी है। अब यह जो यूटिलाइजेशन इम्प्रूव करने के जो स्टेप्स उठाए गए हैं क्या इनको रिव्यू करेंगे और अगर इसमें सुधार की आवश्यकता है तो क्या वह सुधार करके परिसथितियों को सुधारेंगें?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there is an improvement in 1996-97, if you look at both the global concessional aid or even specifically at the World Bank aid.

National Convention of Child Labour

*467. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Convention of Child Labour was held in the capital recently, jointly funded by UNICEF, 1LO, Ministry of Labour and the Department of Social Welfare;

(b) if so, the money spent and the share of each of the organisations Sponsoring the said convention and the number of children who participated from each State;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of children participating in the Convention were school-going children who were brought by various voluntary organisa tions for a picnic; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to see that funds allotted for child labour eradication programmes arc not misused?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The Campaign Aganist Child Labour (CACL) had organised a public hearing on child labour and the 2nd National Convention on Child Labour on 30th March-lst April, 1997 in New Delhi. The names of the organisations and individuals from which funds were received, as indicated by CACL, is given in Statement-! *(See* blow). The convention was attended by 923 children from 11 states. State-wise participation of children in the convention is given in the Statcmcnt-11. *(See* below). The organisers have informed that the children who participated in the convention were non-school going and full-time workers engaged in various activites like bidi making, brick kiln, dhaba, sugarcane-cutting, sericulture, hosiery, match box, sari weaving, etc. Apart from the, main programme of pub-lic deposition, some time was kept for their creative recreational activity.

The Non Governmental and Voluntry Organisations arc required to utilise fund for the purpose for which it is sanctioned. The CACL is also required to furnish audited statement of accounts and utilisation certificate in respect of the funds received from the Ministry of Labour. The disbursement ratio which was 17.03 per cent in 1995-96 has improved to 18.70 per cent in 1996-97.

In fact, disbursement ratio for World Bank aid has improved sharply from about 14 to 18 per cent. Disbursement ratio for ADB has improved sharply, and I think it is now close to 19 or 20 per cent. Therefore, the ratio has improved in 1996-97.That is why, hon. Members will recall in the Revised Estimates for 1996-97, 1 raised the additional Central Assistance to States from Rs. 2,500 crores to Rs. 5,000 crores and for 1997-9S, I have provided Rs. 5,000 crores. So. the disbursement ratio has improved in 1996-97 and I will continue to monitor to sec that the ratio goes up to at least 20 per cent. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR, CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Manpower and NPAS in Allahabad Bank, United Bank of India and UCO Bank

*464. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: